

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02

SY-05 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /080 W
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R 161430Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9256

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7902

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC,PFOR, IN, UR

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. WE NOTE THAT THE JUNE 13 EDITION OF PRAVDA RECEIVED
HERE TODAY CARRIES A TASS ITEM (DATELINED DELHI JUNE 12)
WHICH APPARENTLY REFERS TO THE HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE. OUR
INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE ITEM HEADLINED "UNDER THE
COVER OF NIGHT", READS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: THE PORT OF CALCUTTA HAS BECOME FOR CHINESE
CONTRABANDISTS AN IMPORTANT TRANSIT BASE FOR THE TRANSPORT
OF OPIUM AND NARCOTICS FROM CHINA INTO VARIOUS COUNTRIES
OF ASIA, EUROPE AND AMERICA. THE INDIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED
THE ARREST IN CALCUTTA OF ONE MIN KHU-SAN, A LOCAL RESIDENT
OF CHINESE ORIGIN. UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS HE PENETRATED
A CLOSED ZONE OF THE PORT. DURING THE SEARCH IN HIS
HOUSE THERE WERE DISCOVERED DIVING OUTFITS, DETAILED MAPS
OF THE PORT ALONG WITH MARKINGS /AND/ SECRET DOCUMENTS.
IT WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE INTERROGATION THAT MIN KHU-SAN
HAS MAINTAINED SECRET CONTACTS WITH CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN
SAN FRANCISCO AND OTHER CITIES IN AMERICA WHERE THE ILLEGAL
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SALE OF HEROIN AND OTHER NARCOTICS IS BEING CONDUCTED.

MIN KHU-SAN HAS CONFESSED HIS PART IN THE CONTRABANDING OF NARCOTICS PASSING FROM CHINA TO AMERICA. THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO ACCUSED HIM OF ESPIONAGE. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE CALCUTTA RESIDENT OF CHINESE ORIGIN ARRESTED IN THE HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE WAS ONE DAVID MING HUSUAN CHANG, ACCORDING TO THE TRANSLITERATION IN THE CALCUTTA CONGEN'S EARLY REPORTING ON THE CASE. GIVEN THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN VERSION MIN KHU-SAN AND THE REPORTED MING HUSUAN, AS WELL AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN THE TASS ITEM, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA USE OF WHAT WE KNOW AS THE HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE. THEIR PURPOSE OF COURSE IS TO BESMIRCH THE CHINESE, BUT THE FACT THAT THE REPORT HAS BEEN PICKED UP AT THIS TIME BY DELHI'S TASS MAN SUGGESTS THE CONTINUING COMMUNIST INTEREST IN THE CASE. THE ITEM HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN REPLAYED IN THE INDIAN PRESS.

4. FOR CALCUTTA: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN UPDATING OF DAVID MING HUSUAN CHANG'S SITUATION. DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CONFESSION, THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE IS COOPERATING WITH THE AUTHORITIES, ETC.?
SCHNEIDER

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